



Department of Justice

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FORMER JACKSON COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN CONNECTION WITH OPERATION OF SOUTHERN OHIO "PAIN CLINICS"

CINCINNATI –William H. Jewell, age 64, pleaded guilty in United States District Court here today to one count of money laundering in connection his operation of "pain clinics" in Lucasville, Chillicothe, Hanging Rock, and Jackson, Ohio.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Keith L. Bennett, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cincinnati Field Division; Jose Gonzalez, Special Agent in Charge, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation; Lamont Pugh, III, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and Lawrence County Sheriff Timothy W. Sexton announced the plea entered today before Senior United States District Judge S. Arthur Spiegel.

According to a statement of facts filed with Jewell's plea, beginning in January 2001, Jewell devised a scheme to open a pain clinic in Southeast Ohio. Jewell wanted to make prescriptions available for pain medications other than Oxycontin so as to avoid law enforcement scrutiny. Jewell subsequently leased a building and recruited two doctors to work as attending physicians at the clinic. Jewell instructed the doctors that he did not want them to prescribe Oxycontin because it would raise "red flags". He advised them that the patients were there to get pain medication. Jewell and the two doctors agreed that they would prescribe Xanax (Alprazolam) and Lorcets (Hydrocodone). The clinic charged patients \$200 cash for their prescriptions. The cash payments received from patients would be placed in individual envelopes with the patient's name on the outside. At the end of the day, Jewell would take half of the envelopes and the attending doctor would receive the other half. Jewell took the illegal pain clinic proceeds and structured and laundered these funds in order to conceal and hide his involvement in this activity.

Money laundering carries a maximum possible punishment of 20 years imprisonment. Judge Spiegel set Jewell's sentencing for March 26, 2008.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by agents of the FBI, IRS, HHS and deputies in the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, and Deputy Criminal Chief Anthony Springer, who is prosecuting the case.

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